



THE CONSEQUENCES

OF

TRADE, ⁽¹⁾

AS TO THE
WEALTH and STRENGTH
OF ANY

NATION;

OF

The WOOLLEN Trade in particular, and the great
Superiority of it over all other Branches of Trade.

The present State of it in ENGLAND and FRANCE,
with an Account of our Loss and their Gains.

The Danger we are in of becoming a Province to FRANCE,
unless an Effectual and Immediate Stop be put to the
Exportation of our WOOL.

WITH

A Narrative of the Steps taken by Mr. *WEBBER*, for getting
an Act of Parliament to confirm a Charter granted him by his
Majesty nine Years ago, for an UNIVERSAL REGISTRY in
CHARTER.

By a *DRAPER* of LONDON.

The FIFTH EDITION.

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THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

TRADE

WEALTH

IN A TION



The House of Commons is the only body in the United Kingdom which has the right to originate and pass bills for the raising of money by taxation. It is also the only body which has the right to impeach and punish its own members.

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By the Order of the House of Commons

The Clerk of the House of Commons

Printed and sold by W. B. Whittaker, at the Golden Lion in London.
Also, over against the Admiralty Office, in London.
[The House of Commons]

To their EXCELLENCIES the

LORDS REGENTS

OF

GREAT BRITAIN.

My LORDS,

I Make no Manner of Apology for addressing the following Observations to your Lordships; because they immediately concern the Safety of his Majesty; whom you have the Honour to represent; and the whole Nation; in whose Welfare you have so large an Interest. As far as I am capable of judging, they are both in the utmost Danger; and therefore it is not only excusable in me, but my indispensable Duty, to give your Lordships a just Apprehension of our Condition. I am not only justified in this Application, by the natural Right of Self-Preservation, but bound in Duty to make it. I do not approach your Lordships only in Behalf of such an insignificant Person as the Author of this Pamphlet, but of the King, and Kingdom. I am not insensible of the Distance between your Lordships and my self; and of the respectful Regard which ought to be paid to you. But, My Lords, as I ought to address my self to Persons of such high Dignity with Humility and Reverence, so when I am speaking upon an Occasion of such vast Importance, no one could think me in earnest, if I did not speak with some Emotion. It is not that I forget the Height of your Station, or the Lowness of my own, but because I am afraid lest we should soon be brought upon a Level, by being involved in one common

DEDICATION.

Ruin. Under this dreadful Apprehension, but too well grounded, I do most earnestly beseech your Lordships to examine particularly into the State of the *Woollen Trade*, and to employ your Wisdom in finding out some effectual Method to recover it. Very certain I am, that unless you do, his Majesty will not long continue to be our King, nor we continue to be a Free People. We shall unavoidably fall a Sacrifice to the Ambition of *France*; and our Destruction will as necessarily be followed by that of *Europe*. I do humbly conceive that the Scheme which Mr. *Webber* has offer'd to the Publick will prove an effectual one, and that the Charter which his Majesty was pleas'd to grant him, will be highly beneficial to the Nation. He has clearly convinced my Judgment, and I will make as little doubt but that he will easily convince your Lordships, whenever he shall be honoured with an Opportunity to explain himself. But, be that as it will, this melancholy Truth I must repeat to your Lordships; unless the *Exportation of our Wool* be stopp'd by some Means, or another, the Nation must be ruin'd; and I most heartily beg of God to direct your Counsels to the best Measures for our Preservation.

I am,

My Lords,

Your Lordships,

Most Respectful,

The^r Unknown,

Humble Servant.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF TRADE, &c.

THERE cannot be a more fatal Symptom attending any Distemper than *Insensibility*. When a Patient is past *feeling*, he is usually past *Cure*. — If his Case be not beyond the reach of Medicines, while he thinks himself in a State of *Health*, it will be difficult to make him attend to any Attempts towards convincing him that he is *sick*; and more difficult still to persuade him to apply proper Remedies for his Recovery, whilst he perceives no Occasion for any at all. Or, if the real Distemper be mistaken, or neglected, he must unavoidably die, let the Skill of the Physician be ever so great, and his Prescriptions the best adapted to what he apprehends to be the Case.

The Reader will easily see that, by the *Patient*, I mean *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; and I most heartily wish, the Condition between *Them* and that of a *Sick Man* were less just. We have been in a *Consumption* a considerable Time, and are now reduced to a State of Weakness that renders our Recovery very difficult, tho' not impossible; and yet, like others in that flattering Distemper, so insensible of our Danger, that instead of being thankful for so friendly an Office, we are angry with those who warn us of it, or offer to prescribe to us. — As is usual in *Consumptive* Cases, though our Want of Strength and Spirits makes us peevish and fretful, we are quite ignorant of the true *Cause* of it, and unmindful of the proper Method of *Cure*. There is a Person, seemingly rais'd up by *Providence*, who has laid before us the true State of our Case, and what is necessary to be done, but his *Remonstrances* and his *Prescriptions* have not only been slighted, but our Benefactor has been upbraided with *Lunacy* and *Distraction*.



The *Dissemper* of which we are so sick, is the Decay of our *Woollen Trade*; and the *Cause* of our Dissemper is, the *Exportation* of our *unmanufactur'd Wool* to *Foreigners*. For above twenty Years we have been gradually, but not by *slow Degrees*, waiting in our *Riches* and *Strength*; the *Rents of Houses* in Cities and Towns have been sinking, or becoming uninhabited; the *Rents of Gentlemen's Estates* have been falling, and ill paid, or thrown upon the Landlord's Hands; *Money*, in general Commerce, has been growing more and more scarce; for Want of Employment the Number of *Poor* has been encreasing, while our Capacity to maintain them has been growing less; large, and once the most flourishing Towns, are almost ruined by the Decay of their Manufacture, and those few who have something left, made almost *Beggars* by the Weight of *Parish-Rates*, the *French*, our natural and irreconcilable Enemies, have been all this while gaining the Riches which we have lost, and daily growing stronger, in proportion as we have been growing weaker; and all this through our own stupid Folly, in not keeping our *Wool* at Home. — This is our deplorable Condition, exceeding bad in itself, but the more dangerous, because few have a just Apprehension of it, some sit still in Despair, others are too indolent to seek Information, and many too conceited to accept of it. There is another Set of People (tho' nothing but known Facts would make so monstrous a Truth credible) who seem to be in Pain for fear their Country and their Families should not be ruin'd, and use a deal of unnatural Industry to hinder the Nation from seeing its Danger, or taking proper Measures to prevent its Destruction. But are *Poverty*, *Slavery* and *Papish Persecution*, so dreadful to our Forefathers, become *Trifles* not worth regarding by us? Are *Freedom*, *Plenty*, and our *Religion*, so highly esteem'd by all the rest of Mankind, grown too inconsiderable to deserve our Care and Concern? And if they be Things of such vast Importance to our Happiness, as they have hitherto been esteem'd, does it not become us carefully to attend to the present State of the Nation, to examine whether it be in so bad a Condition as I have represented it, and, if it be, to exert ourselves with the utmost Vigour for our Preservation; I only desire my *Fellow Citizens*, and *Fellow Countrymen* to act like rational Creatures; to think and judge for themselves. All that I propose is, to help them, if they will read over a few Pages, to form a right Judgment of their Case, that they may be awaken'd out of their Lethargy, and animated to take speedy Measures for their Recovery. And for this Purpose, I earnestly desire them to consider the following Particulars.

1. The Consequences of *Trade*, as to the *Wealth* and *Strength* of any Nation.
2. The Consequences of the *Woollen Trade* in particular; the great Superiority of it over all other Branches of Trade.
3. The present State of it in *England* and *France*; the vast Loss which we sustain yearly by its great Decay among us, and the immense Gains of the *French* by their Improvement of it.

4. The Danger we are in of becoming a Province to *France*, unless we immediately take care to recover our *Woollen Trade*, by preventing the Exportation of *unmanufactur'd Wool* to *Foreigners*.

And when these Particulars are fully examin'd and weigh'd, the Reader will be astonish'd to hear what Steps have been taken, by a most ingenious and honest Projector, to save us from Ruin, and what little Regard has been paid to his generous Endeavours.

1. The first Particular to be consider'd is, The Consequences of *Trade*, in respect to the *Wealth* and *Strength* of any Nation. And upon this Head any one may have reasonable Satisfaction, either from *Facts*, or *Arguments*; from the known *History* of Nations, or from the *Nature* and *Reason* of the Thing. From the *former* we learn that thus it has been in all Countries; and from the *latter* we can prove that thus it must always be.

If we examine the *History* of all the Nations in the World, we shall find those to have been the richest (excepting such as had Mines of Gold at Home) who extended their Trade and Commerce the farthest. The Compass of my Design will not permit me to draw up a History of this Matter at large, but I must content myself with some particular, flagrant Instances. — No Man, who has ever read his *Bible*, or the *History* of the *Jews*, can be ignorant of the immense Treasures King *David* and King *Solomon* brought Home from *Foreign* Countries by the Improvement of *Commerce*. The Plenty of Gold and Silver under the Reigns of those two Kings, especially the latter, would be almost incredible, did we not know the *Historians*, who gave the Account to be *infallible*. Next to *Them*, ancient *History* affords nothing beyond the *Tyrians*, and their Descendants, the *Carthaginians*, who enrich'd themselves in the same Manner to an extraordinary Degree. But the Effects of *Trade* and *Commerce* are evident enough from the known State of *Europe*. Wherever they have flourish'd most, those Nations have been the wealthiest. What is the Cause of the great Want of *Money* almost all over *Germany*, but their Want of *Trade* and *Commerce*? How came the States of *Holland*, a Country very small in Extent, to have so many large and populous Cities, and to be able to bear such a vast Load of Taxes? Could the Culture of their Land employ so many Hands in their *Towns*, or the Products of it raise so much *Money*? How came *France* to be so poor, before the Improvement of their *Trade*: and so rich now, notwithstanding the vast Expences that they have been at in the Affair of *Poland* and *Italy*, in maintaining an Army of near 200,000 Men, in the continual Repair and Improvement of vast *Fortifications*, and erecting new *Ports*; how, I say, came this, once beggarly People, while they have been supporting such Charges, to be in Condition to lend Money to the necessitous *Emperor*, to assist *Spain*, and to put such large Sums into our *Funds*. If *Earth* would do such great Things, they had as much Land BEFORE, as they have had since the Growth of their *Manufacturies*. Their *Trade* has done all: THAT *Trade* which they have got from us, or, rather, which we have given them. *Flanders*

[see

[see their former opulent, and their present ruinous State largely set forth in a Pamphlet, lately publish'd by Mr. London of Tiverton, intitled, *Some Considerations on the Importance of the Woollen Manufacturies*] is a notorious Proof that Trade may become an almost inexhaustible Source of Wealth to a Nation. By this, says Mr. London, "were founded those numerous, large, regular, and "well built Cities wherewith it abounds, full of magnificent "Churches, adorn'd after their Manner with exquisite Paintings, "and rich Ornaments of inestimable Value; of great and stately "Monasteries and Convents so richly endowed, that some of their "Revenues equal that of Princes; of superb Town-Halls, and "Magazines for the Accommodation and well Management of "their Manufacturies; of Canals of vast Breadth and Length, for "the Conveyance of Goods from one Town to another, with Locks, "so as to raise Vessels, sometimes, 30 and 40 Feet perpendicular, "the whole dug out and erected at such a vast Expence that it "almost exceeds Belief." But when they lost their Trade, their Cities became almost uninhabited, and the Grass grew in their Exchanges. But if we had not so much Evidence from *Abroad*, of the great *Riches* arising from Trade, the History of our own Country might convince us. Let any one go back only as far as the Times before Henry the VIIth first began our *Woollen Manufacturies*, and compare the Quantity of Specie in the Nation and the Price of Labour, with the Times of King William and Queen Anne, when our Trade was in its highest Prosperity: Let him then go on, from the first *Declension* of our Trade, to observe how Money gradually grew again less plentiful, and Labour cheaper, as that gradually declin'd; and he will not be ignorant of the grand Source of Riches to any Nation. I shall only observe farther upon this Head, how Trade raises the Value of *Land*, and improves Gentlemen's *Estates*; for, the Number of People that are employ'd and maintain'd by it, occasions the Land to be more improved, in order to supply those People with Provisions, supports the Farmer by consuming the Products of it, and occasions a *Circulation* of Commerce in every Branch of it, beyond what can possibly be where there are fewer People, or the People have less Money to lay out. For which Reasons, those Parts of the Country where our Trade has flourish'd most, have been, *in fact*, greatly the best cultivated.

That Trade is the Source of *Riches*, is a Truth which appears from *Facts*, but we may shew from the Nature of the Thing that it must be so. If a Nation has no *Mines* of its own Growth, how can the People grow the *richer* by Dealing with one another. They may by Industry improve the *Products* of their Country, and they may exchange one Thing for another, but all this Commerce can produce no *Money*. When any of our Products are *exported* to *Foreigners* for *Money*, this brings into the Nation so much *adventitious Riches*. If those Products, before Exportation, be *manufactured*, then the Labour in manufacturing is added to their *natural Value*; and the more the Labour, the greater Wealth such

manu-

manufactur'd Goods bring into a Nation, because *Foreigners* pay for all that Labour. This Observation shews what a vast Detriment it is to the Nation to suffer *Leather* to be exported, because, by preventing it, we should send abroad a greater Quantity of *Shoes*, and by that means gain so much Money as the *Wages* of the *Workmen*, and the Profits of the *Masters*, and *Merchants*, out of each Pair, amounts to. Or if we import the Products of another Country, and export them again *manufactur'd*, the Labour of *manufacturing* is so much Wealth brought into the Nation, deducting only the original Price of the *Materials* before they were *manufactur'd*. —As this shews the *true Riches* of a Nation, so it shews, likewise, what Sort of Trade or Commerce it is that can produce them. If we traffick without bringing in *Specie*, we cannot grow richer by it; and our Riches can be only in Proportion to the Quantity of *Specie* which it brings in; so that if the Value of our *Exports* are less, upon the whole, than the Value of our *Imports*, the *Balance* of Trade being against us, we must be beggar'd by Trading.

That the *Riches* of a Nation are the *Strength* of it, is as clear a Point, as that *Trade* is the *Source* of *Riches*; and all Nations have been more, or less powerful, in proportion to the *Degree* of their Wealth. As the *Israelites* never were so rich, as in the Times of *David* and *Solomon*, so they never were at any other Time so powerful, or in such Esteem amongst other Nations. Dr. *Prideaux* has observ'd, that the wealthy City of *Tyre*, when *Alexander* was making Conquests of Nations, with as much Expedition as some would have travel'd over them, met with more Opposition from that single Place than from the whole *Persian Empire*. It is well known that the *Carthaginians*, merely by the Force of their *Riches* acquired by *Trade*, were able to subdue a considerable Part of the World, at last disputed, for a long Time, the Empire of it with the most potent People, the *Romans*, and had undoubtedly conquer'd them, if the Envy of *Hannibal's* Glory had not rais'd up at Home Factions that designedly obstructed the Progress of his Arms. Next to *Carthage*, I believe, *Holland* is the most flagrant Instance of the Power of *Wealth*, rais'd by *Merchandize*. They have been a Nation but a little while, and yet what a Number of fine Colonies have they gotten by Force of Arms? What an extraordinary Stand did they make against *France*, under the Command of the Prince of *Orange*, afterwards our King? Nay, they have been able to engage with the whole Naval Force of *Great Britain*. What was *Great Britain*, before she was enrich'd by *Trade*? Her *Navy* now so powerful, was then no better than some *Fishing Boats*, so inconsiderable, that we lay open to be invaded by every Nation, the *Romans*, *Saxons*, *Danes*, and even *Normans*, that small Part of *France* having been our Conquerors. As our *Trade* encreased, from the Time of *Henry* the VIIth, we grew Richer and more Powerful, 'till we were able to support so great an Expence, and make so glorious a Figure at the Head of the confederated Forces, against that ambitious Nation, to whom we are now voluntarily giving up our *Trade* and *Strength*; as if *Poverty*, *Slavery*, and *Shame*, were preferable to

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Plenty,

Plenty, Freedom, and Glory; as if it were better to become a *Province* to the GRAND MONARCH, than hold the Balance of Power in *Europe*. Neither is it at all surprizing, that a Nation, *inrich'd* by *Trade*, should be so *powerful*. For, wherein consists the Strength of a Nation, but in the *Number of its People*, and its Ability to maintain *Fleets* and *Armies*? Now whereever there is a Flow of Trade, there will always be a Resort of *People* for Employment and Maintenance; and the *Taxes* necessary for the Exigencies of Government, for the Support of the Civil List, for the Hire (if Occasion be) of *mercenary* Soldiers, and for maintaining Armies either by *Land* or by *Sea*, can be better borne by a *larger*, than by a *smaller* Number of People, and better by a People in a State of *Wealth*, than in a State of *Poverty*. Besides that, we should have no occasion for such Taxes, even in a Time of *War*, to be laid upon *ourselves*, because we might oblige *Foreigners* to pay them all. There is a Person hath undertaken to shew them how easily this may be done, and yet nothing of this kind has been attempted, tho' I cannot learn that the Gentleman's *Integrity*, or *Ability*, is in the least suspected by those to whom he has apply'd. It is observed by Travellers, that we are in great Contempt *Abroad*, particularly in *France*; and, I think, we have more Reason to copy after the *French* in this, than in any other of their Fashions, because they have *abundant Reason* to despise us, and we have as much Reason to despise *ourselves*. For, what can be a more *despicable* Conduct, than to load *ourselves* with such heavy Burthens, which we might make others bear for us; to become *insignificant Beggars*, when we might be *rich* and *formidable*? When the Person, abovemention'd, propos'd the taking off some of our Taxes, by his Scheme, he was answer'd, What would his Majesty get by that? To which he reply'd, (as he told me himself), *I thought his Majesty was always a Gainer when his Subjects were eased*. It was an honest and a sensible Answer. For, the Riches of a Nation are the Strength of the *Crown*; and it is impossible but Poverty in the People must weaken the *Prince*. For, how should a Pack of *Beggars* support the *Expence* of the *Crown*? And if Men could be maintain'd without *Money*, how is it possible that an *Army*, dispirited by their Condition, should fight with as much Courage, as if their Spirits were invigorated by *Plenty* and *Freedom*? Whoever advances, or pursues any other *Maxim*, he must be ignorant beyond Conception, or an Enemy to his *Country* and to his *King* beyond Example. No Man can be a Friend to *either*, who is not a Friend to *Trade*. But if Trade will thus *inrich*, and *strengthen* any Nation, let us

Secondly, Consider the Consequences arising from the *Woollem Trade*, which are greatly more beneficial than any other, I may say, than all our other Branches of Trade together. We are very apt to value ourselves, in Preference to other Nations, upon the Strength of our *Understanding* and *Judgment*, and, I should think, we cannot give a better Instance of our *Good Sense*, than by judging rightly of our National Interest, and pursuing it by the best Means.

Now,

Now, I must be so free with my Countrymen, as to declare, that in my Opinion, no Nation in the World enjoys so many *natural* Advantages, as God's kind Providence has blest'd us with; and no Nation is so insensible of their true Interest. Our Situation, as an *Island*, is a great Security to us from foreign Violence. Our Soil produces more of the *Necessaries* of Life (such as *Beef, Salmon, Tallow, Leather, Tin, &c.*) than any other Country in the World, and which other Nations will have at almost any Price that we shall think fit to set upon them; though it is not by a Tax upon any of those Things that Mr. *Webber* proposes to bring in so many Millions from *Foreigners*. And as this Nation will purchase of other Nations the *Conveniences* and the *Luxuries* of Life, it is right Policy to suffer them to be brought in as cheap as possible, instead of loading them with heavy Duties, which impoverish and weaken; not only the *Subject*, but the *King* in effect. If our Trade were thus conducted, our *Imports*, upon the whole, tho' they carried Money out of the Nation, would not be of much Prejudice, because we could export many of those Goods again, bring back profitable Returns, and make ourselves the *Carriers* of *Europe*. And, farther, by thus enlarging our *Commerce*, we encrease our *Shipping*, and provide a constant Supply for our *Navy*. 'Tis true, Taxes must be rais'd for the Support of the Government, but if we can, as undoubtedly we might, make *Foreigners* pay them, we save so much Money to the Nation, add so much to our own Strength, and take as much from them.

Our *Wool* for *Clothing* is, to all the World, as much a *Necessary* of Life as any thing else, and more peculiarly the Growth of our own Country, than any thing, because the midling Sort of Cloths, for the Use of the *Bulk* of Mankind, cannot be made without it, (nor any Sets manufactur'd to any *Perfection*) and, therefore, if we be wise enough to manufacture our own *Wool* at Home, we must have the serving all the World with this Kind of *Woollen* Goods.

How much more profitable this Branch of Trade would be than any other, is worth enquiring, and easily prov'd.——I desire the Reader to remember that it was the *Woollen* Trade that formerly enrich'd *Flanders*, and now enriches *French Flanders* and *France* to so great a Degree: that it was the *Woollen* Trade that enabled *Us* to support such a long War in King *William* and Queen *Anne's* Reign, and at the End of it to be richer than when we began it; and that the Reason why the *Woollen* Trade was, during that Time, in so flourishing a Condition, was, because *France* could not then have any of our *unmanufactur'd* *Wool*.

But let us enquire into the Nature of the *Woollen* Manufacturies, and we shall easily perceive how the Advantages of them came to be so superior to those of any other Branch of Business.——The *Riches* of a Nation arise out of the *Labour* of the People exported to foreign Markets. If our People can be employ'd, and we can find Custom abroad for the Goods manufactur'd by them, then the more populous we are, the richer we are; but a Number

of People *unemploy'd* are a *Burthen*, as this Nation feels very sensibly at present. But, if our *Wool* were kept and manufactur'd at *Home*, all our People might be employ'd in the Woollen Manufactures, and their Wages paid by *Foreigners* in the Purchase of the Goods. I shall give the Reader a small Specimen of the *Number* of Hands employ'd in manufacturing our *Wool*, which, by Multiplication, would shew him how many the whole Growth of our Country would employ. For Instance, *Three* Packs of *Wool*, weighing 720 lb. manufactur'd into Broad Cloths, Camblets, Serges, Hose, &c. on a moderate Computation, one Sort with another, employ 450 Persons, (I might say a great many more, almost 600, but I am willing in all my Calculations to keep within Bounds) such as *Combers*, *Scriblers*, *Stock-Carders*, *Spinners*, *Weavers*, *Ful-lers*, *Burlers*, *Dyers*, *Dressers*, and *Pressers*, who, upon an Average, will earn, each Person, 5 s. a Week; the whole amounting to 112 l. 10 s. Now the Growth of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland's* *Wool* being above a *Million* of Packs (as will be prov'd;) if three Packs will employ 450 Hands, and their Labour produces 112 l. 10 s. a Week, any one that understands Figures may soon see how many a *Million* of Packs will employ, and how much they will earn in a *Week*, a *Month*, or a *Year*.

I appeal, now, to the Gentlemen in the *silken* Business, (which I apprehend to come nearest to the *Woollen Trade*, for the Number of Hands concern'd in manufacturing it) whether *that* can employ so many. Besides, *Silk* not being of our own Growth, such a Quantity of it as is necessary to employ an *equal* Number of Hands, would carry more Money out of the Nation in the *Importation* of it, than the *Wool* which we sell to *Foreigners* will bring into it: So that the *Difference* of the Price of the Materials would be so much Loss to *Us*. I mean that the *raw* *Silk*, for employing 100 Hands, suppose, would cost us more, than so much *unmanufactur'd* *Wool* would fetch from *Foreigners*. — From this State of the Case, it appears that we had better employ all the Hands that we can spare, in the *Woollen Manufacturies*, and purchase *Silken* Goods manufactur'd, than manufacture them *ourselves*, for as much as the Labour of the Hands employ'd in manufacturing *Wool*, would be more than we should give *Foreigners* for their Labour in manufacturing *Silk*. Besides the *Silken* Goods, that we make at *Home*, are almost for our *own* Consumption, consequently, but few of them being *exported*, except to our Plantations, but little *Profit* can arise to us from the *Labour* employ'd in them.

To shew this Matter in another Light. — The highest Price that *Wool* bears at present is, 5 l. a Pack, weighing 240 lb. The Product, therefore, of 20 Packs, exported to *France* *unmanufactur'd*, will be, no more than 100 l. But 20 Packs, in *King William* and *Queen Anne's* *Reigns*, when we manufactur'd it ourselves, sold for 12 to 16 l. a Pack. Taking it at the lowest, at 12 l. a Pack, which Price *Wool* would again yield the *Sheep-Master*, in three or four Years Time, (if the *Exportation* of it were stopp'd) the 20 Packs which now sell for no more than 100 l. would sell for 240 l.

140 *l.* which makes 140 *l.* Difference to the *Sheep-Master* only. — The Labour in manufacturing these 20 Packs, at 3 *s.* 4 *d.* each Pound of Wool upon an Average (tho' it really comes to 5 *s.*) amounts to 720 *l.* so that the whole Loss to the Nation is 860 *l.* in every 20 Packs that are exported *unmanufactur'd.*

But this is not all. The 100 *l.* which the *French* give for these 20 Packs of Wool is not paid in Specie, but in *Silks, Brandy, &c.* run into the Nation *Duty-free*. Now, if we lose, and give the *French*, in every 20 Packs of Wool exported to them *unmanufactur'd*, 860 *l.* what must be the Consequence of giving them so many 100,000 Packs as we give them year y? And what a great Loss is this to the Government, in the Duties upon the Goods that would be imported in Return for some of our *Woollen Manufactures*. To instance only in the *Levant Trade* to *Turkey* and *Italy*. (Now almost lost to us, and in the Hands of the *French*.) We used to bring from them, in Return for *Woollen Goods, raw Silks, Cotton, &c.* all regularly paying Duty to the Government. These Goods would employ and maintain many of our Poor in manufacturing them. And are not such Imports, as these, manufactur'd afterwards by ourselves, and applied to the real Uses of Life, preferable to *French Brandy*, which we can do full as well without? Besides that, by these Means we enlarge our Commerce, employ our Shipping, and breed Sailors for the Defence of the Kingdom. These Facts and Consequences are undeniable. But the Profits arising from the *Woollen Manufacturies* will be farther set forth under the next Head of Enquiry, from a Calculation of Mr. London's. Let us therefore attend to the Condition of these *Woollen Manufacturies, HERE* and in *France*; with the great Loss that we sustain, and the immense Profits which the *French* gain thereby. — The great Decay of them here may be prov'd many Ways.

1. As Mr. *Webber*, in his five Letters concerning the Importance of the *Woollen Trade*, has observed, there can be no more Wool manufactur'd than what is comb'd, scribbled, and carded; and it is well known that there is not a fourth Part of the Number of Combers, Scriblers and Carders, that used to be; from whence it is plain that there is not a fourth Part of the Quantity of *Woollen Goods* now made, that were made formerly.

2. From the Exports. Mr. *London* computes that all our Wool and Labour, that is consumed at Home, and sent Abroad, does not amount to above 14 Millions Sterling. How much larger they were in the Year 1698 any one may imagine, from what Mr. *Webber* has testified upon his own Knowledge, at p. 17 of his five Letters. He tells us there, that at *Bristol-Fair*, only, in eight Days Time the Dutch and Spanish Merchants and Factors bought above 150,000 Pounds worth of *Woollen Goods*, besides what was carried from *Bridgewater* in a Dutch Dogger. Upon which he observes very justly, that we have all imaginable Reason to think that *Minehead, Barnstable, Bithford, Topsham, or Exon*; that along the *South Channel, London, Bocking, and Braintree, Norwich and Yarmouth*, sold proportionable Quantities for Exportation.

3. We have none of those *Dutch* and *Spanish* Merchants and Factors going, as they used to do, to the Manufacturers Houses in the Country, to buy the Goods in the Places where they were manufactured, nor any Instances of the Manufacturer's refusing ready Money from those Foreigners, and keeping their Goods in their Ware-houses for the Supply of their Home Customers. On the contrary, they are forced to send them to *Blackwell-Hall*, there to pay *House-Rent*, to give *Discount* Money to their Factors, because they can't wait 'till the Goods are sold, and sometimes to take *Wool* in lieu of Money. These known Facts undeniably prove a vast Decay of the Trade.

4. The State of *Foreign Coin*, among us is another plain Proof. About the Time that Mr. *Webber* mentions, it was as current as our own, and now you can see none in any Payments, unless it be *Portugal* Money; and the Reason is, because by the Loss of our *Woolen* Trade in other Nations, the Balance is against us. In *France*, as I have been informed by *Eye-Witnesses*, *English* Guineas are as common as *Portugal* Pieces are here.

5. Which is farther evident by the great Scarcity of our own Coin. I am acquainted with many of the *London* Traders, who agree in their Accounts of the State of the Kingdom in general, that they never knew any Thing like the present Want of Money; for which Reason several of them are going to leave off Business. I have been in many Parts of the Kingdom, and have had this melancholy Truth confirm'd to me by *Gentlemen* and *Farmers*. One in particular assur'd me lately, that he expects next Year to have his whole Estate thrown upon his Hands; and said he question'd whether, when the King's Tax was paid, *There would be a Shilling left in the Parish*. In *Town* there is the same Complaint of the Deadness of Trade, and the Scarcity of Money; all owing to the Decay of the *Woollen* Manufacturies, which us'd to give a brisk Circulation to all other Branches of Trade and Commerce, by a free Circulation of Foreign Money, and having the Balance of our National Trade on our Side, whereas now our Specie is exported for Foreign Goods.

6. The vast Increase of the Number of our Poor shews it beyond Contradiction. Mr. *Webber* tells us, upon the Authority of a *Noble Peer*, who was at the Expence of procuring an Estimate, that we had four Years ago, above a Million upon the Rates, capable of working; and every Parish knows, to their Cost, that they have been yearly increasing ever since. But,

7. Let any one examine, particularly, the State of those Towns where the *Woollen* Manufacturies have been carried on, and he will see their most flourishing Towns reduced to perfect Beggary by the Loss of their Trade. It is possible that in some few Places the *Woollen* Business may have been lower then it is at present, but then it is not so high as it has been, even in those Places: Neither, if it were otherwise, would a particular Instance or two, signify any Thing to the General State of the Kingdom.

If we have lost our *Woollen Trade*, into what Hands is it fallen? Several Nations come in for a small Share of the Plunder, but
France

France has the *Bulk* of it ; as appears by *Mr. Mun's Journal* of the State of their Manufacturies in the Year 32, which must be greatly improved since ; and therefore to shew, at one View, *our Loss* and *their Gain*, I shall transcribe a Calculation out of *Mr. London's Pamphlet*. According to a very moderate Computation the *French* have, yearly, 500,000 Packs of our Wool unmanufactur'd ; with which they can work up twice as much of their own. The immense Detriment arising from hence to *us*, and the still larger Profit accruing to *them*, he sets forth in the following Manner.

A Mil. Packs of Wool, (for so much is computed to be grown here) as sold, when coffin'd to our own Manufactures, at 16 l.	} 16,000,000 l.	{ As now sold, suffer'd to go abroad — }	{ 4,000,000 l.
The Labour and Profit in working it at such Times at 40 l.	{ 40,000,000 l.	{ The Labour and Profit of 500,000 Packs manufactured here, under the Disadvan- tages mentioned at half Wages, 20 l. per Pack *	{ 10,000,000 l.
56,000,000 l.		Is to our Disadvantage	
14,000,000 l.		42,000,000 l.	

Whereby it appears, that the Nation loses no less than Forty-two Millions Sterling yearly, besides what the Landed Interest suffers by the Poor, and Rates made to support them, which, by the further Decay of our Manufactures, will, in Time, become so numerous, that the Revenues of all the Lands together will not be found sufficient to maintain them. On the other Hand, *France*, by getting over 500,000 Packs of our Wool, can work up a Million and Half, it being on all Hands agreed, that one Pack of ours is sufficient to work up two of theirs, and suppose we reckon but 35 l. per Pack for their Labour in working it, then the Labour of a Million and Half of Packs, at 35 l. per Pack, amounts to Fifty two Millions and Half Sterling. And that they do work up so much may well be supposed, for they certainly will import no more of our Wool than is absolutely necessary for them.

If any one should, as I make no doubt, but many will, be shock'd at the Quantity of Wool, suppos'd to grow in *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, it is I think, made highly probable by the following Account, taken from the same Author.

“ That

* Even our Manufactures yielded twice the Price formerly as at present.

" That there are a Million of Packs of Wool growing yearly in *Great-Britain* and *Ireland* is calculated thus,

It appears by the Toll-Books that there are brought into *Smith-Field* Market for Slaughter, to serve *London*, within the Bills of Mortality, 36,000 Sheep and Lambs, Weekly. Now allow 6000 of these, throughout the Seasons, to be Lambs, and that there are 30,000 Sheep slaughter'd one Week with the other, then the rest of *England* is generally computed to contain about seven Times as many Inhabitants as *London*, within the Bills. But supposing it contains only six Times as many, and that accordingly there are 210,000 Sheep slaughter'd in *England* Weekly; and likewise, that 4 Years Sheep are kept for Stock, or that there are always in Being four Times more than are thus slaughter'd, as is usual with Sheep-Masters to compute, and allowing every Sheep, one with another, to bear four Pounds of Wool, and every Pack to weigh 240 lb. then the yearly Wool of *England*, according to this Computation only, amounts to —————

In England.
Packs 728,000

Now in the Country throughout *England*, People feed as much on Flesh as in Town, and drinking less, they generally exceed them in the Quantity they eat.

Then, as *Scotland* is of less Extent, and less fruitful than *England*, admit there are but one Quarter Part of the Sheep in it, and it amounts to —————

Scotland.
Packs 182,000

Then as *Ireland* is not one fourth Part less than *England*, but is full as fertile, and taken up chiefly with Feeding it hath been judged by some who have taken great Pains thoroughly to inform themselves, that it hath near as many Sheep in it as there are in *England*; but suppose we say, only half the Quantity that *England* produces, viz. 364,000 Packs, the whole amounts to One Million, and Two hundred and seventy four thousand Packs —————

Ireland.
Packs 364,000

Sum Total. Packs 1,274,000

N. B. In this Calculation is not included the Wool of Sheep continually slaughter'd, call'd *Vel Wool*, nor the Wool of Lambs.

I have already computed the Profit arising from the Labour of manufacturing a Million of Packs only, I shall here subjoin a Calculation of the Share that *Foreigners* would pay of this Profit to us. Two hundred and fifty thousand Packs of Wool, yearly, the fourth Part of the Growth of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, will cloath Thirteen or Fourteen Millions of People one with another, which is more than the Number of our Inhabitants are supposed to amount to; so that three Parts in four of our Manufactures would be exported, and bring home Money in Return, to the Amount of no less than

than Thirty Millions Sterling, for the *bare Labour* in manufacturing those Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Packs, besides the Value of the *Wool itself*, unmanufactur'd, which is reckoned at twelve Millions more, in all amounting to Forty-two Millions, all arising from one single Branch of our Trade, and far exceeding the Value of all the Branches of Trade belonging to This, or any other Nation.

If therefore we were so wise, and just to ourselves, as to preserve this Blessing, we might be the richest and the most powerful Nation in the World, eased of our present Load of Poor's Rates, and Taxes, and instead of being deserted and despised, again respected, dreaded, and courted by our Neighbours.

Sometime ago our Poor amounted to One Million and Four Hundred Thousand; the Decay of Trade since that Time, and the Severity of this last Year may fairly be suppos'd to have encreased the Number to two Millions; if we go on thus encreasing our Poor, and lessening our Incomes by a farther Decay of our Trade, how shall we be able to maintain them? Almost every Thing is taxed, and high too, if we go on to lose our Trade, how shall the necessary Expences of the Government be supported? How shall Fleets and Armies, for the Defence of the Kingdom, be maintain'd? All the Land in the three Kingdoms will not do it. Nothing but Trade, and nothing but the *Woollen Trade* can do it.

From the preceding Particulars, *viz.* the *Consequences of Trade*, as to the *Wealth* and *Strength* of any Nation, the greater Superiority, in these Respects, of the *Woollen Trade* above all other Branches of Trade, the great *Decay* of the *Woollen Trade* in *England*, and the *Growth* of it in *France*; from hence it must appear, to any one who is capable of seeing at all, that unless we take immediate Care to recover it, we must become a Prey to that ambitious Nation. The *Dispositions* and *Designs* of *France*; after such open Attempts for *Universal Monarchy*, can hardly be denied by the most *Frenchified* Englishmen. Their Possessions of *Friendship* cannot be of Weight with any but such as are inclin'd to their Interest. They are making all possible Preparations for a State of open *Enmity*, and then the Mask will be taken off. If any well-meaning Reader doubts of their real Designs, let him read a Pamphlet publish'd last Year, and entitled *French Counsels destructive to England, in seven Letters to Sir*—— Their Intentions, therefore, being indisputable, the only Thing to be consider'd is, their Capacity to put their Designs in Execution. And I ask any one to tell me what should prevent it, if, instead of taking the proper Measures for our Safety, we continue to furnish them with the Means for accomplishing it. We have seen what *Riches* arise from *Trade* and *Commerce*, and how inseparable *Riches* and *Strength* are from one another; and yet we suffer the *French* to enrich themselves by a Trade which they cannot carry on without our Leave, while we are growing *poor* and *weak* by the Loss of it. We are sensible of the Weight of *Publick Debts*, and yet voluntarily load ourselves with *Taxes*, when we might make others pay them, and clear ourselves

selves, in a few Years, of all Incumbrances; while *their* Finances are not only disincumbred, but their King, as they are fond to boast, is continually putting Money into our Funds, and, by the Help of our *Wool*, will soon be able to engross so large a Share of them, that by drawing out he will be able, as soon as their Design shall be ripe for Execution, to leave us defenceless. — If we compare the Number, or Condition of *theirs*, and *our* Forces, what is the Comparison? For *Number*, there is none; for *Condition*, very little. — Our only Security consists in our *Naval* Forces, but Experience has taught us, that the *Winds* can render it useless. — However, for Fear the Elements should be on our Side, we are taking the *wisest* Measures for weakening our *own* Fleet, and strengthening that of the *French*. We are giving up our *Trade* and *Commerce*, which are the proper Nursery for it; we are, with *them*, giving up our *Wealth*, which, only, can maintain it. The *French*, by our Folly, are daily encreasing both their *Trade*, and their *Riches*, so very fast, that they will soon be able to build, or buy and maintain as large a Fleet as they please; and all, who know any Thing of what is doing in *France*, know, that they are both *building* and *buying* Men of War as fast as possible. Last Year they built 19, and bought others. Last Year, too, they began to exercise their Seamen, by sending out a Fleet; as they are preparing to do again. — It is true, they have, as yet, no *Harbours* for Ships of Force on our Channel, but they have been hard at Work in making some, particularly at *Gravelines*, which is as well situated as *Dunkirk*. They are making another at *Cberburgh* near *La-Hogue*.

If we consider the State of *England* and *Ireland*, the Prospect is but a melancholy one. In *England* we are unhappily divided into *Parties*, so imbitter'd against one another, that, in Case of Need, *common* Danger would scarce be able to unite them against the *Common Enemy*. The Marks of Infamy that have been set upon a great Part of the Kingdom, for not liking and opposing some of the publick Measures, must have occasion'd Resentments, and a general Discontent is the Natural Consequence of a general Decay of our *Trade*, which is the Life and Soul of our publick Welfare. But if we were united, such is the general Disposition of the Nation, they have not those *Principles* of *Activity* and *Bravery*, which have heretofore animated *English* Hearts, and strengthened *English* Hands. The Love of *Liberty*, and a Sense of *Religion*, in many, are quite lost, in most are greatly weakened. — But this is not all. The *French* seem to have a considerable Party here in her Interest. Mr. *Webber* assures me that an Officer belonging to the *Customs* has own'd to him, more than once, and with great Concern, that he was oblig'd to go on Board and see *Wool* shipp'd, which he knew to be bound for *France*. How, and why, *JOSIAS THOMPSON* was render'd incapable of serving his Majesty, and afterwards run thro' the Body in *Germain-Street*, the same Person inform'd me, and is ready to prove. I have, likewise, been very credibly inform'd, that a certain Lord, the Son of a certain Great

Man,

Man, with other Noblemen, gave an Order for 50 Suits of Cloths, at one Time, to be sent for from *France*.——*Wales* and *Scotland* I know less of, but neither of them, I doubt, are so well *satisfied*, as could be wish'd, with their Condition, and therefore less averse than otherwise they would be, to a Change of Government. But, while I say this, I hope that God's good Providence will over-rule their Passions, and make use of them for our Safety. This is not a proper Time for Discord, but for mutual Affection among ourselves, Duty to his Majesty, and active Zeal for the Good of our Country. In *Ireland* there are three, if not four *Papists* to one *Protestant*; not divided, as they were formerly, and headed by the Chiefs of different Parties, and all fighting against one another. Those *Heads* are now no more, and those Parties are united by being reduced; and all in such a State, that they would think any Change desirable. They are at present, indeed, without Arms, or military Knowledge; but *France* and *Spain* have 15,000 of their Countrymen in pay, who may both carry them Arms, and teach 'em the Use of them. And the miserable Condition of that Nation, which may make it so easy for *France* to gain them over to her Interest, has been owing to a most stupid Piece of *English Policy*, dictated by *Avarice* and *Jealousy*. The seven Letters above-mention'd, demonstrate that we have been injuring *ourselves*, by cramping and distressing them.

The Situation of Affairs *Abroad* carries an Aspect as unpromising as that at *Home*. Tho' *France* is the *Grand* and *Designing* Power of which *Europe* ought to be jealous, and against whose growing Greatness and ambitious Views it is their Interest to guard; she has persuaded them to be directed by her Counsels, and to carry on her Scheme for Universal Monarchy.

The artful *Cardinal* has found out Means to dissolve the *Alliance* which was such a Curb to her Ambition, and to weaken the Parties of it. By his Intrigues the *Emperor* has been stripp'd of *Naples* and *Sicily*, reduced to the Necessity of purchasing a Peace with *France*, at no less a Price than giving up *Lorraine* to that Power too great and formidable before, involv'd in a War with the *Turks*, abused in the Measures of conducting it, deluded and betray'd by his treacherous Ally, and at last oblig'd to throw himself, for Protection into the Arms of the *French*, the Hereditary Enemy of his Family, after having giving up to the *Turk* the Bulwark of *Christendom*, and thereby left himself more exposed in case of another Rupture.

In regard to *Spain*, the *French* have acted as politick a Part. To sooth the Vanity of the *Spanish* Queen she has made a petty King of her Son, and complimented *England* with the *Expence* of conducting him to his Dominions. She has set *Spain* and *England* at Variance, whose mutual Interest it is to be good Friends; that when they shall have sufficiently weakened each other, she may make a Prey of them both. *France* is to *Spain*, what *Spain* is to *Portugal*. *Spain* can hinder *Portugal* from having a Communication with

any other Country by *Land*, and would have over-run her before this Time if she had not been protected by the *British Fleet*. In the same Manner that *Spain* surrounds *Portugal*, *France* surrounds *Spain*, can stop up her Communication by *Land*, and must have her at *Mercy*, unless she has an Ally superior to the *French* by *Sea*. But if *England* be destroy'd, what other Power can be able to protect her?

Holland has been about as wise as her Neighbours, so long under the Influence of *French Counsels*, that she is, in a Manner, subject to *French Government*. Her Trade is decay'd; the Government is poor, and the Nation torn with Factions; their Navy, once the *British Rival*, reduced almost to nothing. I need not spend any Time in setting forth their Weakness, which is apparent enough from the late Language of the *French*, and the Silence of the *Dutch*. Their present *Neutrality* is not the Result of their Wisdom, nor the Effect of Complaisance, but the Consequence of their Fears. They dare not interpose lest they should hasten their own Ruin. *France* has menaced, and *Holland* trembles. It were no difficult Matter to point out the Progress of their Ruin, and open their Motives of Action; but it is enough to know the weak Condition to which they have brought themselves. Their *Barrier Towns*, which cost them so much to keep in Repair and to Garrison, would stand 'em in little stead; for as the *French* can at any Time pour 100,000 Men into the *Austrian Netherlands*, they can easily over-run the whole Country; and by getting Possession of *that*, they can starve those Garrisons, by hindring any kind of Supplies from being sent them. And they can with the more Ease do this, by Reason of the Disaffection of the Inhabitants. They are weary of their Subjection to the *Emperor*, who is continually draining them of their Money, but unable to protect their Trade, while their Neighbours in *French Flanders*, by Means of the Encouragement given to *Theirs*, are in a flourishing Condition. This has occasion'd such an Inclination in those People to change their Master, that they would, of themselves, open their Gates to the *French*, whenever they should come with a Force sufficient to protect them. Within these four Years they actually form'd a Design to revolt, if the *Politick Cardinal* had thought it a proper Time to receive them; but the *Emperor*, *England*, and *Holland*, not being then sufficiently reduced, the old Alliance might have prov'd, again, too strong for him. An *unactive*, or an *unsuccessful War*, and another Years Crop of our Wool (which, no doubt, they'll find Means to get) may ripen their Projects, and put them upon Action.

In other Parts of *Europe*, in *Poland*, *Denmark*, and *Sweden*, these crafty People have insinuated themselves, influenced their Counsels, and created Disturbances, to favour their own Schemes. Only *Russia* has acted independently, and upon wise and steady Principles. *Alexander* has been justly stil'd a common Robber, because he laid waste, and plunder'd Nations that he had no more Right to, than I have to the Goods, Liberty, or Life of one of my Equals, but *France* has been

been guilty of as much *Injustice* and more *Treachery*. For the Sake of subjecting those to her Dominion, who, by the Law of Nature and Nations, are independent of her, and enriching herself with their Wealth, she has been embroiling all Europe, that, by dividing and weakening them, she may the more effectually compass her intended Conquests. They have Alexander's Vice of *Ambition* in the highest Degree, but not his *Virtues* of *Openness* and *Generosity*. Yet, this is the Nation that some of us court with so much Affection, that we serve with so much Zeal, that we imitate with so much Servility. — I would express my Astonishment, if I could think of any Words significant enough to do it. — It will much better become us, in common Discretion, to check their growing Greatness, and to recover our own Trade; which cannot be done without putting a Stop to the *Exportation* of our *unmanufactur'd* Wool to *Foreigners*. The only sensible Question is, not whether it be absolutely necessary to do it (since that is no Question) and that immediately too, but *how* it can be done effectually. Some Gentlemen, indeed, of the best Understanding, for Want of having examined into the Matter, were of Opinion, that we might recover our Woollen Trade by going to Market as cheap as the *French*, tho' they do get our Wool. — But, 1st. How can we work as cheap as the *French*, unless our Poor could live as low as theirs, which they cannot do? — 2dly. If we could work as cheap, we could not go to Market as cheap, because we, being oblig'd to carry our Goods abroad, in large Vessels, we must pay Duties, whereas *France*, by being on the Continent, can run their Goods into the neighbouring Nations Duty free, and by that Means save 10 or 12 per Cent. Besides, the Wool of *France* being not of half the Value or Price, as that of *British* or *Irish* Wool, as one Pack of our Wool works up two of theirs, and as what Wool our Manufactures buy is paid for in Specie, whereas what they draw from us is paid for in a good Measure by wrought Silk, Rum, Teas, Coffee, Wines, and Brandy, &c. By the Profits on which it comes cheaper to them than even to ourselves, these are other Advantages to them, and all together amount, at least, to 30 per Cent. in their Favour. — 3dly. If you lower the Price of *Labour*, you lower the Value of *Land*, and obstruct the Circulation of *all Commerce*, since the lower their Wages, the less Money the Labourers have to purchase the Products of the Earth, and other Things with; so that either they cannot buy so many of them, or cannot give so good a Price for what they buy. This is self-evident. — 4thly. Why should we be at the Trouble of contriving Means of going to Market as cheap as the *French*, and have the Price of our Goods bear down, when we can at once hinder them from going to Market at all, and, by having the Market to ourselves, be able to fix our own Price? Is it not better to have *all* the Trade, than only *some* of it? To employ *all* our Poor, than only *some* of them? To have a *high* Price for our Goods, than a *low*, or a *middling* one? I am asham'd to answer such Objections as these. — But, if it be thus necessary to prevent the Exportation of our Wool, how can it be done? A Scheme has been offer'd, and approved, as effectual,

Not only by Merchants and Trades-people of the greatest Knowledge in their Way, not only by several others in both Houses of Parliament, but also by the Ministry: And indeed the Scheme speaks for itself, for, whenever it shall be put in Execution, it will not only ease Parish-Rates, prevent Parish-Law-Suits, and suppress Vagrants and Thieves, but will find Employ for them to maintain themselves, and open Ways to Commerce by exporting their Labour; tho' some little Creatures, hoping to make a Merit of their mean Conduct, have industriously undervalued it, and misrepresented the Projector. — But if the Scheme be a good one, how comes it to pass that the unfortunate Projector should have spent nine Years, and a great deal of Money, so fruitlessly, in his Application for Acceptance? I have nothing to do with the Reasons and Motives, of the Conduct of my Superiors; but, as far as my Memory will serve me, I shall give plain Facts, a short Narrative of Mr. Webber's Application and Reception, as he has related it to me, without making any Comments upon them.

In the Year 31 Mr. Webber applied to his Majesty, recommended by above 600,000 Woollen Traders (whose Petitions lie now in the Duke of Newcastle's Office) for a Charter to himself and Company, to prevent the Exportation of unmanufactur'd Wool to Foreigners by an Universal Registry. His Majesty was most graciously pleas'd by, and with the Advice of his Counsel, to grant his Request, and gave Instructions to the Then Attorney-General to report, or form a Charter for That Purpose: But he being of Opinion, that though it was the undoubted Prerogative of the Crown to grant Charters, and by Virtue of his Majesty's Grant Mr. Webber and Company might have put the Scheme in Execution in the best Manner, they could, it was expedient to have an Act of Parliament to vest the Patentees with further Powers, than the Charter could convey to Them*. Mr. Webber was thereupon advis'd to apply to Parliament, and

* Some have been pleas'd to say, his Majesty will not consent that Mr. Webber should nominate the Patentees. They mean, that — will not consent to it, for his MAJESTY has consented to it, in his Order for the Grant of the Charter to Mr. Webber and Company, which Order stands now upon Record in the proper Office. And his Privy Counsel have consented to it, when they advis'd his Majesty to grant it. The same Persons say (nay, and look grave when they say it) that Mr. Webber cannot expect to be admitted to speak to his Majesty, but must convey what he has to say thro' their Interposition. A Man needs not be a Conjuror to understand their Design. But, as it was always thought an Instance of Wisdom and Goodness in Governors to give their Subjects a free Access to their Persons, and a patient Attention to their modest Complaints, so no wise and good counsellors, in former Time, ever obstructed such Applications. Mr. Webber has sent the printed Remonstrance to his Majesty at Hanover, directed to the Chaplain in waiting, for him to deliver with his own Hand; and he will likewise send one of the Pamphlets in the same Manner, and I hope the Gentleman will faithfully deliver it.

and assur'd that he should meet with Success: Neither did he in the least doubt of the Concurrence of those about the Court with his Majesty's Pleasure, in getting the Charter confirm'd, which they themselves advis'd his Majesty, in Council, to grant; especially as the effectual Execution of the Scheme was of such Importance to his Majesty, as well as to the Nation. Accordingly, Mr. *Webber* did apply the very next Session; towards the latter End of which a certain Gentleman, of Note, in the Parliament-House, came to him in the *Gallery*, told him there was not Time to pass the Bill that Session, but that he might be easy, and might make the People in the Country easy, for it should certainly be done the following Session; but immediately after this Declaration to Mr. *Webber*, he whisper'd another, advising him not to spend his Time and Money in the Affair because it never would be done. This the Person, himself, some time afterwards, told to Mr. *Webber* and others. Encouraged by this Assurance the Projector apply'd again next Session but to as little Purpose. Upon these Disappointments he found Means to get Access to his Majesty, who told him, *but thought it had been done* ——— Upon this the Matter was brought into the House, but nothing more was done in it, but only changing the *Woollen* Bill into the *Manchester* Bill, to which the *French* will not refuse their Consent. ——— However, Mr. *Webber* continued to solicit every Year till 1739, when a Bill pass'd the House, relating to the Importation of *Irish Yarn*, which, as Mr. *Webber* assur'd them it wou'd, open'd a wider Door for the Exportation of our Wool, lower'd the Price of it, embarras'd Trade, and occasion'd several to leave off. It was said that this Bill was never intended to take Effect, tho' it was suffer'd to pass, but it *did*, and a very bad Effect it has produced. But between the Date of this Bill and the *Manchester* Bill some remarkable Things happen'd. In the Year 1733, Mr. *Webber* in the Presence of Mr. *Randal* (from whom I have my Information) was offer'd 10,000*l.* in Bank-Bills, if he would tell how he would bring the Million yearly from *Foreigners* into the *Treasury*, and many Millions more into the Interest of *Land* and *Trade*. In 1737 he was offer'd 20,000*l.* and his Statue to be erected by *Blackwell-Hall*; and the Gentleman, who made the Offer, publish'd next Day in one of the *News-Papers*, that he had agreed with the Projector for his Scheme. Just before the last Session, he had another Offer made him by the same Person who made the first, and he was desir'd by another to be ready with his Scheme against their Meeting. ——— From these (and more that I could cite) Applications to Mr. *Webber*, it is plain that they had an excellent Opinion of the Projector and of his Projection, which, I hope, some others will take Notice of to their Shame. In *March* 13, 1734, Mr. *Webber* receiv'd a Letter from a former *Servant* of his, then employ'd in the *Woollen Manufacturies* in *France*, wherein he gave him the same honest Advice that the Gentleman, above mention'd, gave his Countryman in the *Gallery* of the House of *Commons*; assuring him, upon the Authority of *Count* ———, that it would be to no Purpose to pursue his Scheme, because it was stipulated

tated that France might have as much of our Wool as they pleas'd, This Letter Mr. Webber, in Justice to his King and Country, carried immediately to the *Secretary of State's Office*, but was there told, he had best go home and be quiet — *being above his Match*. In 1737, Mr. Webber accidentally got a Sight of a *Journal of the State of the French Manufacturies*, made by one Mun, who was sent over for that Purpose by Authority. Mr. Webber pressed the said Mun to publish his Journnl, but he said the MINISTRY would not suffer him. This Mr. Randal was a Witness to. But finding that Mr. Webber was determined to publish it from the Copy which he had, if the other refus'd any longer, it was then publish'd.

About this Time Mr. Webber had Assurances, that *Petitions* would be sent up to the *Parliament* from most cloathing Towns in the Kingdom, but Means were contriv'd to prevent it; and one of the Boroughs in *Cornwal* own'd that an *Universal Registry* would most effectually prevent the Running of Wool; but they were told, if it were granted in *Charter*, their *Representatives* could not be able to get *Places* for any of them: So, if two or three Scrubs in the Corporation could get a *Place*, FRANCE might take the King and Kingdom, for all them. It is hard to say which was greatest, their *Honesty*, or their *Policy*. But they look'd no further than their first Year's Salary. What is to become of them and their Families next Year they neither know nor care; and are as much afraid of Information, as a Mole is of Light.

By the Advice of some of the best Judges he now publish'd his Scheme, and afterwards drew up, in *Writing*, the Nature of the intended *Charter*, which all, that have seen it, allow to be an exceeding wise one, and what would be greatly beneficial to the Publick.

He once more got Access to his Majesty, and gave one of the Schemes to him, but it was immediately taken out of his Hands, the *Beef-Eater* was reprimanded for giving him Admittance, and he went away disappointed. — He likewise gave one of them to the Members of the *House of Commons*, and to some of the *House of Lords*. The Scheme, as I observ'd, was approv'd of, and highly extoll'd, but his Application was still fruitless. — After this, he wrote a Letter to the *Prince of Wales*, which the following *Remonstrance*, deliver'd at *Guild-Hall*, gives an Account of.

To the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR, the Worshipful the Court of ALDERMEN, and the Worthy Common-Council of the City of London, the ever faithful Friends of the Crown, and zealous Promoters of the Publick Welfare, the Earnest REMONSTRANCE of SAMUEL WEBBER, Shewing, From the imminent Danger that His Majesty and the Nation are in, by Reason of the Exportation of our unmanufactur'd Wool, the Necessity of their Addressing His Majesty, that, agreeable to His Majesty's Promise, publish'd in the Gazette of the 8th of May last, he would be pleas'd to grant the said Samuel Webber Access to his Royal Person, and an Opportunity of making good what he advanced in his Letter to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

IN a Pamphlet lately publish'd upon Wool, I gave an Account of the State of our Woollen Manufactures, from the Peace of Ryswick to this Time; shewing, by undoubted Facts, that we had always the greatest Demand from abroad for our Woollen Goods, when the French could not get our unmanufactur'd Wool from us; and that then the Price of Wool always rose at home, when the smallest Quantities of it were exported to France: That the French have improved their Woollen Manufactures to so great a Degree, that they manufacture more of our Wool, than we do ourselves; by which Means they have carried away our Trade to all Parts where we traded, to the great Enrichment of that powerful and ambitious Nation, and the impoverishing our own. I observ'd, that unless an immediate Stop be put to the Exportation of our Wool unmanufactur'd, and Encouragement given to manufacturing it ourselves. His Majesty and the Nation must unavoidably be ruin'd in a little Time. At the End of the Pamphlet I publish'd an effectual Scheme to prevent the Exportation of our Wool unmanufactur'd to Foreigners, and have undertaken to bring from Foreigners one Million of Pounds yearly clear into His Majesty's Treasury, and above seven Millions (I might have said above twenty Millions) of Pounds yearly to the Interest of Land and Trade of these his Majesty's Dominions, without the Increase of one Officer. One would have imagin'd that such a Scheme, at a Time when the Nation stood in such need of it for the Recovery of our Trade, especially now, when a War with Spain requires so much Money to carry it on, would readily have been accepted, and the Projector bountifully rewarded. But in the Dedication of the Pamphlet to the Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen, and Common-Council, I informed the Publick, at how great an Expence and Trouble I have in vain solicited to be heard, tho' his Majesty, when I first paid my Duty to him, was graciously pleas'd to receive my Proposals, and directed the then Attorney General to report or form such a Charter as I desired; and many of the Honourable House of Commons allowed my Scheme to be the best that could be thought of. — I was still in Hopes that the Publication of these Facts, might, before this Time, have gained a Hearing before the King and Parliament, about an Affair of the last Importance to the Safety of both, but I have not been able to obtain an Hearing. To justify my hearty Con-

cern for the Cause of my King and Country, I think it proper to publish an Account of the bold Attempt that I made, to save them from Ruin.——Having always been either denied Access to his Majesty, or not allowed Time to inform him of the dangerous Condition of his Government, and of the Nation, I wrote a Letter the 3d of May last, signed A. B. to his Royal Highness the Prince, wherein I declared, (if I might have the Liberty of calling some honourable Persons, well known at Court, and who knew me, to speak to my Character) that I could communicate something to his Majesty, that immediately concern'd the Safety of his Crown and People: Upon which I was promised, in the Gazette of the 8th following, that my Request should be complied with. Accordingly I went to the Duke of Newcastle's Office, my very kind Friend, who knew my Character; own'd myself the Author of the Letter sign'd A. B. mentioned in the Gazette, and surrender'd myself, in order to make good what I had offer'd. I was received civilly, discharged without the least Mark of Displeasure, but still not allowed Access to the King, notwithstanding the publick Promise in the Gazette. Hard indeed is the Fate of Monarchs, when they are not allowed the Liberty of a private Subject, to be warned of approaching Danger!——Hard the Fate of a Nation, when declining in its Trade, Wealth, and Strength, and just ready to be made Tributary to a powerful Neighbour, it cannot get Friends to exert themselves time enough to prevent its Ruin! And our Ruin is the more grievous, because not brought on us by any unforeseen Accidents, or Inadvertency. I have often, at the Hazard of my Reputation in point of common Prudence, in Conversation with the Ministry, and in Letters to them; as also in a printed Paper, delivered in at the Door of the Honourable House of Commons, set forth, in the strongest Terms, the dangerous Consequence of losing our Woollen Trade, by letting France have our unmanufactur'd Wool; thereby bringing an intolerable Load of unemploy'd Poor upon our ruined Estates, losing that Wealth and Strength, which alone can support the Nation and Government, and transferring them to the ambitious House of Bourbon, of themselves too inclinable to accomplish our Ruin, because of our inconsistent Interests, and too politick to neglect the utmost Improvement of the least Advantage against us. I told the Honourable House, that St. Stephen's Chapel would soon be fit for nothing, but to say High Mass in. I have often declared our Danger, and that we shall never have such an Opportunity of enriching ourselves, as while France was employed in Poland and Italy. What good Reasons there might be for not hearkening to all my pressing Remonstrances, I must leave to conjecture. But what I then offer'd I still offer, with the utmost Confidence. I then offer'd at the Peril of my Liberty and my Life, to make it appear, that without an Alteration of Measures the Government must be overturned, and the Nation ruined. If I could not have demonstrated this, I desired no Mercy: And I presume, If I had stood in need of any, when I surrender'd myself to the Secretary of State, I should have found none. I now upon the same Terms, humbly crave the Performance of His Majesty's Royal Promise. And this I do from a sincere Desire to save

save my KING and COUNTRY from inevitable Destruction : For, in my Judgment, if we suffer France to get another Crop of our Wool from us, and clap up a Cessation of Arms, after such an immense Expence to prepare for a vigorous War, the Destruction of both must be inevitable,

I am,

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient,

And respectful,

Humble Servant,

Samuel Webber.

If this Remonstrance had produced, as he might very reasonably expect, an *Address* to his MAJESTY, and a *Petition* to the *Parliament*, such is the just Influence of their Example over other *Boroughs*, it would not have been in any one's Power to have prevented other *Addresses* and *Petitions* from following *Theirs*.

The Citizens of *London* are so worthy a Body of Men, and have acted with so much prudent Zeal for the publick Good, I have the most affectionate and respectful Regard for them; but I cannot but express some Degree of Amazement, as well as Concern, that upon so pressing and moving an Application, they shou'd do nothing at all in an Affair that much better deserved their Notice than any Thing else that ever *did*, or even *can* come before them. As I am unwilling to part with any Share of that Esteem for them, which has given me so much Pleasure, I am endeavouring to account for this Conduct in a Manner as little to their Disadvantage as possible. I immediately took the Benefit of an Observation of Mr. *Webber's*, and Mr. *London's*; they observe, that the *Woollen Trade* has been so long lost, that the very *Knowledge* of what it was in its Glory, and of its *vast* Importance, not only to the *Prosperity*, but to the *very Being* of the Nation, is lost with it. But so much good Sense, as they have shewn on other Occasions, shou'd have led them to read what had been written upon such a Subject, and to hear what the *Projector* had to say when he so fairly offered to explain, and so confidently undertook to defend, whatever appear'd unintelligible, or incredible. Whether any will give themselves the Trouble to read what I have taken the Pains to write, or what Effect it may have I cannot say; but I can call God to Witness, that I write from full Conviction, and with the most upright Intention; not from any personal Disobligations, or with any Party Views.—I am entirely satisfied that the *King* and the *Nation* must unavoidably be undone, unless an immediate Stop be put to the Exportation of our Wool, and that nothing but an *Universal Registry* in *Charter* can

effectually do it. I gave a Hint that this honest and ingenious Projector seems to be raised up by a particular Act of *Providence* to save us from Ruin. He has found out what nobody could contrive, tho' many have rack'd their Invention ever since Queen *Elizabeth's* Time; and this Scheme is far, very far (of my own Knowledge I speak it) from being all that he can propose to the Government for the Interest of his *Majesty*, and the Welfare of the *Community*. In short, I never yet conversed with any one who seems to me, to understand *Trade* and *Commerce* in general so well, or how to improve the Trade and Interest of this Kingdom in particular; and I never yet met his *Superior*, hardly his *Equal*, in *Integrity*. He was told that he would, *but once*, repent his not coming into the Proposals that have been made him; but not the 200 Millions that we might have sav'd by keeping our Wool at Home; not the more than twice that Sum, which *France* has acquir'd by getting it; *nothing* can make him repent his having endeavour'd to save his King and Country from Ruin.

I find it a common Objection, even among those who wish well to their Country, that if we hinder *France* from having our Wool, they'll declare War with us, and we shall be very much distressed by such a War. A War, I grant, may be the Consequence, tho' a War declar'd, by *France*, on such an Occasion, would be as notorious a Violation of common Justice as ever was practis'd, I will not say by any *Christian* Nation, but by any Nation that profess'd any Principles of *Morality*. Because we will not suffer them to be Thieves and steal our Wool, will they turn open Robbers, and take it by Force? Because we will not suffer them to have the most valuable Part of the Products of our Country, to which we have an absolute Right, will they violently take the whole, make Slaves of us, or destroy us? And shall we tamely resign up our All, and Ourselves, to the Demands of unjust Violence, without one Struggle for it? If we are in a weak Condition this Year, we shall be in a much weaker the next Year, upon the present Footing. If *France* be so strong now, let them have our Wool, and they'll be stronger every Day, and therefore the sooner they quarrel with us for refusing them our Wool, we shall be the better able to defend ourselves. And if we only act defensively against Tyranny and Oppression, and in Defence of the whole Protestant Religion, which depends upon the State of *England*, have we not the more Reason to expect the Blessing of *Providence* upon our Arms? But how can we be said to be defenceless with a Navy of 200 Sail of Men of War? A War with *France* would, no doubt, be grievous, but would not the Loss of our Estates, our Liberties, and our Religion be more grievous? For my own Part, I had rather die Sword in Hand, than live ingloriously; and Time has been when this was the natural Sentiment of an *Englishman*. How our Neighbours would behave in case of a Rupture, it is difficult to guess; but how they ought in common Prudence to act, Common Sense will easily see. If *France* should subdue *Great-Britain*, in all human Appearance, nothing can prevent her from acquiring Universal Monarchy; which

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Consideration will procure us *Allies*, in Time of Need, tho' we have been told, we have none at present. I do not mention any Reasons of *Gratitude* for former Services, because they will weigh but little in the Scale, but *their own* Destruction being the necessary Consequence of *ours*, surely they might be prevail'd on to lay aside their *Jealousy*, and unite against the common Enemy. The *Balance* of Power must be either in *Great-Britain*, or *France*. If it be in *France*, we have seen what use they'll make of it; never rest till they have got the *whole* of it. It was never the Aim, nor can it ever be the Interest of *Great-Britain*, to conquer her Neighbours. *Wealth* and *Power* would make us only more able *Friends* and *Assistants*. They have found us such heretofore, and they will too soon, perhaps, repent that they have contributed towards our present Inability.

By Way of Conclusion, there are two Sorts of People that I would apply myself to. Those who really mean to stop Wool, and those who do not. It may seem to some a very strange Supposition to imagine that there can be any Man in *England* so ignorant, as not to know that the *Exportation* of it must be our *Ruin*; or that any *private* Considerations should be able to induce any one that has *Reason* and *Humanity* about him knowingly to consent to the *Ruin* of his Country. If this Pamphlet should fall into the Hands of any such, I would desire them, if they pretend that they do not mean to *beggar* us*, and to give us up a Prey to our Enemies, to answer what I have said in a *rational* Way; (I defy them to do it) for calling Mr. *Webber* a *Madman*, and his Scheme a *wild and impracticable Chymara*, will not stop the Progress of our growing Poverty and Weakness, nor prevent the Consequences of our Inability to defend ourselves against Foreign Power. Will *Party Prejudice* fill the Hungry, or cloath the Naked? Will it maintain Fleets and Armies? Can we without Force defend ourselves against Force? Or does *Strength* consist in *Weakness*? There is no Medium, therefore. If they are not for stopping of Wool, they must intend (if they have any Thought at all about the Consequence of *exporting* it) to give up the King and the Nation to *France*, since that is *plainly* the necessary Consequence. I would ask them, then, upon what Inducement they would give us up? Or, how can it be their personal Interest to do it? A few People, perhaps, might get by such a Change of the Government, but it is impossible that the *Generality* of those who seem to be disinclin'd to the stopping of Wool, should find their Account in it, or expect to live so happily under a *French Viceroy*, and *French Laws*, as they may do under our own Government, administer'd
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* It can be proved that a certain Person made no Scruple, many Years ago, to declare a French Government to be the best, that the Nation ought to be kept poor, in order to be kept humble; and that he would act agreeable to his Opinion; and his subsequent Conduct bath but too strongly prov'd the Sincerity of his Declaration.

by a Protestant Prince, in such Plenty as we might abound in if we would but take proper Measures for the Recovery of our Trade *.

As to those that are sincere Friends to their Country, and are convinced of the absolute Necessity of putting a Stop to the Exportation of our Wool to *Foreigners*, and yet are as indolent, unactive, and unconcern'd about it, as if it were a Matter of little Weight, or that may as well be done at any other Time as now, I know not how to reconcile their Conduct to *Common Sense*, or how to apply myself to such *inconsistent* People. If, by their Folly, they were to ruin only themselves, they would hardly deserve the Compassion of a wise Man; but it is extremely hard and provoking, that those who are awake and willing to exert themselves for their Preservation, should, in spite of all that they can do, be yet *undone*, because they cannot rouse others out of their *Lethargy*. If they do not fully understand the Nature of the Scheme, why do they not take more Pains to be better inform'd, or have the Modesty to give a little Credit to those who are better acquainted with it. If upon a thorough Examination, they *dislike* any Part of it, why do they not immediately consult together about proper Amendments? But what Reason have they to question the *Expediency* of a Charter which his Majesty *granted*, by, and with the Advice of his *Privy Council*, upon the most mature Consideration; At least, why do they not petition his *publick Council*, the *Parliament*, to take the Matter into *their* Consideration; especially as it is well known that several of the most able Men in the House have declared their good Opinion of it, and their Persuasion that we *must* be undone unless Wool be stop'd? Why, I say, did they not humbly, but importunately desire their Representatives to pass a Law for the Execution of it, or think of a better Scheme? And why do they not address his Majesty to call them together for that Purpose? Can the Parliament possibly meet upon a Business of more Moment to his Majesty and the Kingdom? Are 28 Millions, lost by us every Year, and above twice as much gained by our Enemies, such a *Trifle*, that we can safely let Session after Session slip without putting a Stop to this fatal Evil? Did our Fore-fathers

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* It is a very great Misfortune that Trade is so little understood, and so greatly despised by many Gentlemen of Estates, because they cannot be disposed to make proper Laws for the Encouragement of what they neither value, nor understand. But such Persons would do well to consider that Trade is so much the Support of their Estates, that they would be worth nothing without it. It highly concerns our Honourable Representatives, in point of Interest, to acquire just Notions of it; and may God dispose those Noblemen who have Access to the Throne to instill them into his Majesty. His Readiness to encourage Trade appear'd from his Grant to Mr. Webber, &c. but if it were possible to suppose that he could imbibe the wicked and weak Position advanced by one of his Subjects, both his Majesty and the whole Nation must be sacrificed by it.

place *Wool-packs* in the *House of Lords* to remind them of the *great Importance* of our *Wool*? And is it now fallen below our Notice? In the Name of every Thing that is *sensible* and *prudent*, what can the People of this Kingdom mean? Is it Matter of *Indifferency* to the *Nobility* and *Gentry*, whether they be forced to give up all their *Church Lands*? Whether the Value of their *Estates* rises, or falls? Whether their *Rents* be paid, or not paid? Whether the Weight of the *Taxes* and *Poors Rates* be light, or heavy? Whether the *Streets* and *Roads* be pester'd with *Beggars*, *Thieves*, and *Robbers*; or whether we travel and live safe and unmolested? Whether *Industry* and *Virtue*, or *Idleness* and *Vice* prevail? Is it Matter of *Indifferency* to the *Merchants* and *Traders* of all Sorts, whether they have a good, or a bad Trade? Whether there be little or much Money circulating? Is it Matter of *Indifferency* to the *Bishops* and *Clergy*, whether they be obliged to part with their *Preferments*, or give up their *Religion*? Whether the *Protestant Religion* be preserv'd, or destroy'd over all *Europe*? Whether the People be able to pay their *Tithes* and *Offerings*? Am I warm? I am. The Cause deserves it. Our *All* is at Stake; and if lost, can never be retriev'd. If I have exaggerated, let any one shew it, and I dare promise to throw away my Pen, and engage never to get another to disturb the Publick with.

That this Pamphlet may not be unknown, I am determin'd to circulate at my own Expence, at least a Thousand of them; and if any one, after reading it, shall be disposed to give away any in proper Places, he shall have a Dozen at half Price.

Whether the *Citizens* of *London* will follow my Example by circulating some of them among their Correspondents in the *Country*, or *Friends* in *Town*; or whether any others, of Ability to do it, will give any Thing towards saving their Country and themselves from Ruin, they only must determine. I have done the utmost in my Power, and what I have done cannot be altogether fruitless, because it will give me Peace of Mind, and enable me to bear my Share of any Calamities which I could not hinder, with the more Patience.

P O S T.

POSTSCRIPT.

IT is now about Three Months since I first published this Pamphlet, and the many Thousands of them that have been sold, are a sufficient Answer to the Objections that have been made against it. For, as it has fallen into the Hands of such Variety of Readers, the most Knowing and Acute, as well as the Ignorant and Inattentive, and yet the more it has been read, the more it has been approv'd; This is the highest presumptive Argument that the Facts are true, in the general, and the Reasonings from them conclusive. But it may not be improper to take some short Notice of what has been said by Friends and Enemies in Diminution of it.

SOME were fond of making Exceptions, not out of any wicked Design, but only to shew their Penetration and Judgement. Of This Impertinent Kind have I met with several, in Coffee-Houses and Clubs, who, from mere Vanity, have depreciated a Work while they were commending it, and thrown cold Water upon a Design, which, at the same Time, they could not but acknowledge to be necessary to the Safety of the Nation. A Conduct not very equitable, with regard to the Good Intention of the Writer, or any ways prudent, with regard to the Success of the Performance; both which Considerations should have induced every honest and grateful Reader to read with Candour, to pass over any little incidental Slips for the Sake of the many Seasonable, Important Truths advanced in it; and, instead of lessening its Credit and obstructing its Influence because they think it not a perfect Piece, to recommend and forward it because they own it to be right in the main, and such as may be the Means of doing Good Service in This Time of Danger. I should think, also, that common Modesty should be a reasonable Motive to distrust in all Cases that are not very clear, forasmuch as it may commonly be sup-
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posed that an Author, writing upon a Subject so little understood, and where he might expect so much Opposition, has taken care to be a better Master of it than a Person who, perhaps, never thought of it before, and passes Judgment extempore. One of my Friends, not knowing me to be the Author of it, said handsome Things of my Performance, and told me, he would have dispersed many of them at his own Expence, but for two palpable Mistakes in it. Whether they were the Mistakes of the Writer, or the Critic, is not a Straw's Matter, since they did not relate to the Affair of the Wool, which he believed to be so true that it must be the Ruin of the Kingdom. Strange! that a Person of the most upright Intention, and a good Understanding, should Judge and Act so Irrationally! What Discouragements are these Instances to such as are willing to write in the Service of their King and Country! Equally absurd are those who are in such violent Pain for fear the Calculations should be set too high, when they are convinced that they are, in fact, high enough to Ruin us. In Calculations of this Nature it is absolutely impossible to be perfectly accurate, because the Facts, upon which they are grounded, can not be exactly ascertain'd, tho' the oftener and the more I think of them, the more I am convinced that they are set rather too low, than too high. Who can say, to a few Packs, how many Packs of Wool are growing yearly in Great Britain and Ireland? Or, to a small Number, how many Labourers the Woollen Manufacturies, in Good Times, would Employ? And yet, of both we know enough to be assur'd, that if France manufactures our Wool for us, and we lose the Trade, as we actually have done, We must become Beggars, and the French our Masters. I defy all Mankind to disprove this. But, to do the French Tools Justice, they have too much Sense to attempt it, tho' call'd upon, tho' provok'd, tho' ready to do it, if they could. That our Trade is gone, and that France has got it, by the Means of our Wool, even the Gazetteer will not offer to deny; and, I presume, a Fact must be notorious which That Writer is ashamed to deny, when the Denial of it would serve his Purpose. On the contrary, since he cannot any longer brazen the Nation out of their Sense, and make them believe they are in as flourishing a Condition as ever, he lately had the Impudence and Folly to Insult the City of London on account of its Decay. — What the Advocates for France think it proper now to insist upon is, the Impracticableness of Mr. Webber's Scheme in particular, and the Impossibility of preventing it by any Scheme whatsoever. — Neither of these Objections are any great Compliment to the King and his Privy Council, because his Majesty, by and with their Advice, accepted Mr. Webber's Scheme as a practicable One, and order'd a Charter to be form'd for that Purpose. The Offers that were made him for the Method by which he purposes to bring in so many Millions from Foreigners, by the Means of his Scheme, are another

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plain Confutation of those Pretences. For, if the Ministry had been of Opinion that it was Impossible to prevent the Exportation of our Wool, or that Mr. Webber's Scheme would not do it, is it possible to suppose that Men, not as much distracted as the French Advocates have represented Mr. Webber to be, should offer to purchase it? It is difficult to say which is greatest, the Effrontery of those who can attempt to impose upon the Nation by such Stuff, or the Folly of those well-meaning Dupes who repeat it after them. If it be impossible to prevent the Exportation of our Wool, we need go no farther, for the Reason of it, than to one of the Facts, related in the Narrative. Mr. Webber, the Reader may remember, carried a Letter (which he received from France, and which gave an Account that the FRENCH, by AGREEMENT, were to have as much of our Wool as they would) to the Secretary of State's Office; who, instead of communicating the Letter to the King and Council, only told Mr. Webber that

— WAS ABOVE HIS MATCH. Though the Secretary of State did not think the Letter worth Notice, no doubt the Parliament will, and either punish Mr. Webber for publishing such a Falshood, or censure such a Neglect of his Majesty's and the Nation's Interest. No wonder Custom-House Officers should connive at the Destruction of their Country, when a superior Officer passes over such Informations in silence. And, unless there be such an Agreement, I dare pawn my Life upon it, that the Exportation of our Wool may be prevented, and that Mr. Webber's Scheme, of an Universal Registry in Charter, will appear to the Parliament not only practicable, but easy, plain, familiar, and agreeable to our Constitution; so fruitful of beneficial Effects, that, if it be carried into Execution, it will put This Nation in a more flourishing Way than ever it was in before. And what Reason have we to think that the Parliament will not immediately enter upon a Consideration of an Affair upon which both the Well-being and the very Being of the Nation depends? If it were possible to suppose (which I never can, or will suppose of his Intentions, however plain I may think the Tendency of his Measures) that a Prime-Minister could mean to give up the Nation and his Master to Foreigners, he could never make it the Interest of our Representatives to do it, any more than he could prevail upon them to sacrifice the publick to their private Advantage. No doubt, French Money, on such an Occasion, would not be wanting, if any of the honourable Members would accept of it; but, can any Bribe make it worth a Wise Man's while to Ruin his Estate, and make himself and Family Slaves, after having so long tasted of the Sweetness of Liberty and Plenty? Would a Pension, or a Place, for two or three Years, be a Compensation for perpetual Subjection to Arbitrary Power, perhaps for Banishment, perhaps for worse Persecution? Such a Supposition is as great an Imputation upon the Common-Sense, as

it is upon the Integrity, of that Honourable and Wise Assembly, and to make it, would be the highest Breach of Privilege. I dare answer for it, that a Little Time will open such a Scene of Poverty and Distress, that whoever of our Representatives should venture to oppose an Act to prevent the Exportation of our Wool, or should not shew himself forward to procure one, such Conduct would render him more odious to his Constituents than even the Excise Scheme, and put it out of the Power of Bribery, prevalent as it is, to purchase him a Seat in another Parliament; but, I persuade myself, our worthy Members will voluntarily intitle themselves to the Esteem and Favour of their Country by anticipating any Application, and redressing their Grievances before they can have an Opportunity to complain of them. But, if any other Security, besides the Honour and Wisdom of a British House of Commons, were wanting to make us easy and safe, we have the Honour and Wisdom of the most Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, who will never sit silent while his Majesty, the Welfare of the whole Nation, the whole Protestant Religion, the Liberties of all Europe, are in such Imminent Danger of being swallowed up by the growing Strength of France, but will apprise his Majesty of the dangerous Condition we are in, with the Causes of it, and advise him to take speedy Measures to prevent a General Ruin. If what I have written should contribute any thing towards it, I shall think I have liv'd enough to Glory, after having been an Instrument in the Hands of Providence to serve all those valuable Interests. As I did, before I began the Pamphlet, or the Postscript, humbly beg God's Assistance; so having written them in the best manner I could, I do earnestly beg of him to give Success to Them.

N. B. Mr. Webber lives in *Eure-street, Gravel-Lane, Southwark*, and will be ready to appear to answer to any of the *Facts*, mentioned under his Name; or to satisfy any Persons in any Difficulty concerning his Scheme.

F I N I S.